

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Port of Ventspils	DATE DISTR.	21 December 1955	25X1
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PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information		25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. At 0545 hours GMT on 30 May 1955, two small naval vessels were at the approach to Ventspils. About thirty small units were also observed, of which about 20 were MTB's; the others were guard and patrol vessels of various classes.
- On the morning of 3 June, four corvettes were observed in the same place. They had a clipper bow, flush decks, a gun in a shield on the foredeck, a twin-mounted antiaircraft gun between the forward gun and the bridge, a two-deck open bridge, a mast at the after edge of the bridge, a somewhat round object halfway up the mast, a low raked funnel abaft the bridge, a twin-mounted antiaircraft gun abaft the funnel, a gun in a shield on the afterdeck, and a stern rounded toward the water line. (See Sketch No. 1.) At the same time, in the same place as the corvettes there were an undetermined number of MTB's.
- They had a sharply raked bow, a low bridge or deckhouse, and a signal mast abaft the bridge. (See Sketch No. 2.) There were also two submarines of different classes. The foredeck was about three times the length of the conning tower; the afterdeck was slightly longer than the foredeck. (See Sketch No. 3.) Its foredeck was three to four times the length of the conning tower, and the afterdeck was about the same length as the foredeck. (See Sketch No. 4.) An auxiliary vessel was observed at the same time and place as the above described vessels. It displaced about 2,000 tons and had a perpendicular bow, a raised forecastle, a bridge on the forecastle, a signal mast at the after edge of the bridge, two identical perpendicular funnels abaft the bridge, and a break in the deck at the forward funnel, but no armament. (See Sketch No. 5.).

2. The import quay was in good condition. It was about 500 to 600 meters long. The quay edge arched slightly. There were four brick storage sheds on the northwest portion of the quay, and there was a large store of lumber near the storage sheds. This portion of the quay was served by four 2½ to 5-ton cranes which ran on rails. The rails lay on top of the

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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quay deck. The cranes worked fast and efficiently. There were two fixed 25-ton cranes on the southeast portion of the quay. One looked as though it was not in use. Just in from the cranes there was a single railroad track which ran the entire length of the quay. About 40 to 50 meters in from the track there stood a 10 to 45-ton diesel crane on rails. Approximately 40 to 50 meters in from this crane there was a 2½ to 5-ton crane on rails. The cranes served the steel plate and reinforcement steel storage area which covered the entire southeast portion of the quay. The quay area was surrounded by a fence, which was about 250 meters from the quay edge. Several parallel railroad tracks ran outside the fence. A stone-surfaced road with two or three lanes led down to the quay through a gate in the fence. Near the quay where the steel plate was stored there was a coal storage area. There was a coal storage area on the other side of the river also. No cranes were observed in connection with the coal storage areas. On the east bank south of the coal storage area there were 12 to 15 reclining petroleum tanks. Off these lay a tanker of about 8,000 DWT. (See Sketch No. 6.)

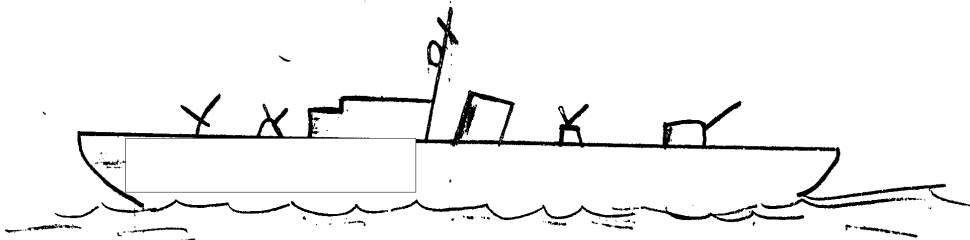
3. A large dredge was in operation off the coal quay. The depth along the import quay was sounded at 23 to 24 feet. Vessels could not load to a draft deeper than 21 feet, however, because of the bar at the mouth of the river. There was a wooden bridge across the river about 500 meters above the quay.

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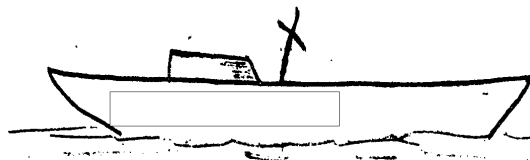
4. A pistol, the radio transmitter, cameras, and binoculars were placed under seal.

Sketch No. 1:
Corvettes off Ventspils:



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Sketch No. 2:
MTB's off Ventspils:



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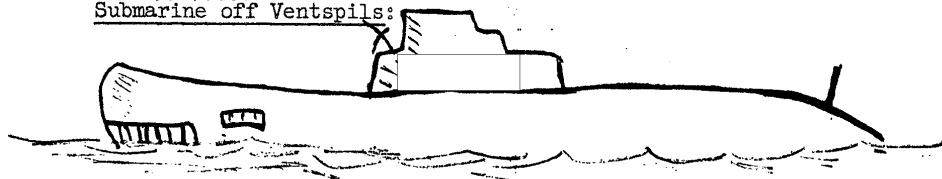
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Sketch No. 3:

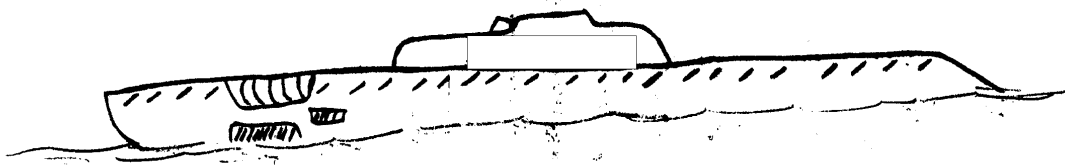
Submarine off Ventspils:



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Sketch No. 4:

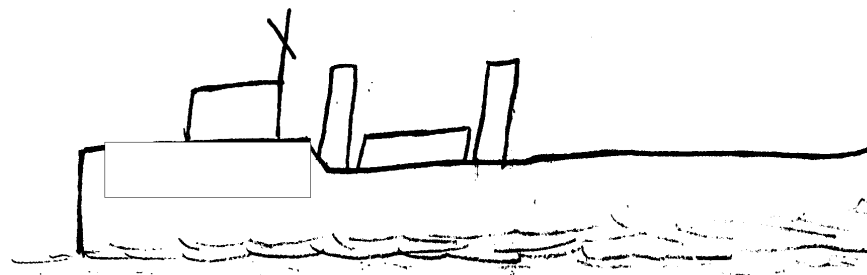
Submarine off Ventspils:



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Sketch No. 5:

Auxiliary Vessel off Ventspils:

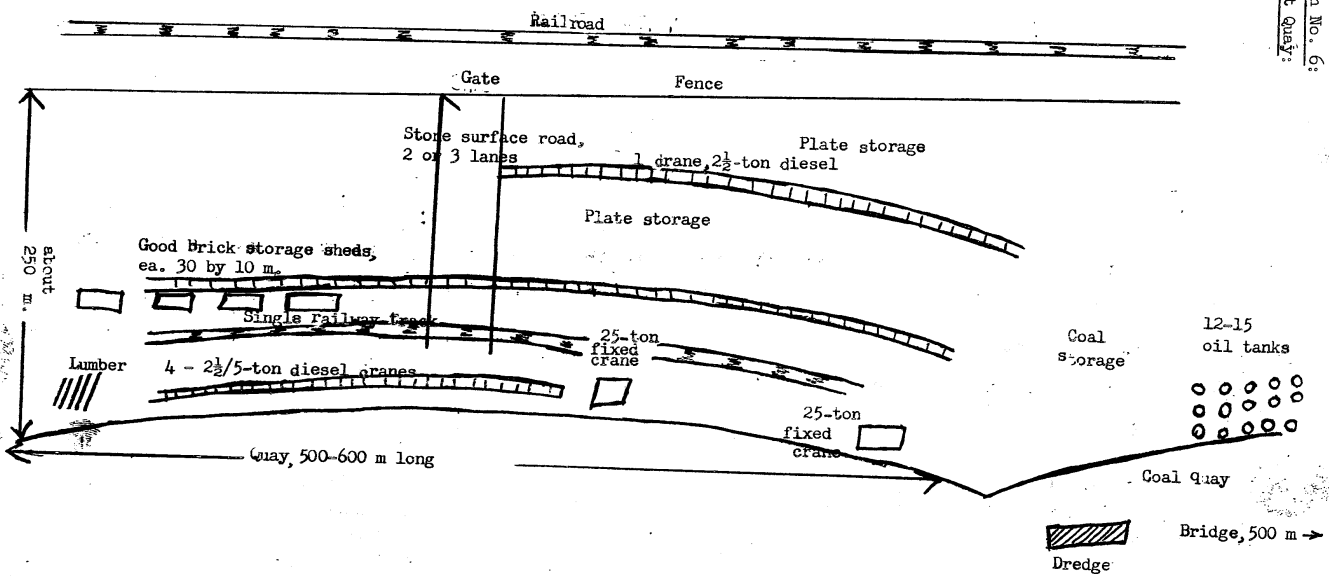


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Sketch No. 6:
Import Quay:



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